(vi) The import of a large number of garment machinery has been allowed under concessional custom duty.

Norms for Promotion and Transfer of State under Shops and Establishment Rules

1162. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the existing norms for promotion of staff under Shops and Establishment Act in National Textiles Corporation;

(b) the member of staff of the Corporation who have been promoted and transferred under Shops and Establishment Rules during the last three years and current year;

(c) whether the salesmen and salesgirls have been promoted to assistant or clerk grade in Delhi, Punjab, Rajasthan of National Textiles Corporation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR) (a) Shops and Establishment Act does not prescribe norms for promotion of staff.

(b) During the period 3 salesmen were promoted as Shop Managers in NTC (WBABO). In the last three years, 8 employees were transferred (including 3 in the current year) in the Retail Marketing Division of NTC (MP).

(c) and (d) There is no channel of promotion from the cadre of sales person to clerical cadre in NTC. NTC has reported that there are no such instances during NTC (DPR) in the last three years.

Patenting the handloom items

1163. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering patenting important Tamil Nadu based traditional goods like Kanjeevaram silk sarees and other handloom items; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) Traditional items like Kanjeevaram silk sarees are not patentable under the provisions of the Patents Act, 1970.

(b) Does not arise.